

22 1957

D.C.

## Joe Louis' Hotel Bill

*World-Telegram & Sun*  
Joe Louis, the ex-heavyweight champion of the world, is an extremely popular and amiable public figure. He is, in almost anybody's book, a good fellow. And hence a sucker for a favor-seeker.

*New York*  
The Senate's McClellan committee, probing into labor rackets, now charges that the Teamsters Union has been billed for Joe's hotel expenses on a visit to Washington in which he appeared conspicuously at the trial of James R. Hoffa.

Hoffa, heir apparent to Dave Beck's throne, was acquitted of bribery charges.

It appears that Mr. Louis' curious attendance at the trial was arranged entirely by Teamsters Union officials.

It was no coincidence, either, that the Afro-American, a Negro newspaper in Washington, published advertisements and articles praising Hoffa while the trial was in process.

There were eight Negroes on the jury. After the Afro-American papers were distributed, the judge locked up the jury.

It also was noted that during the trial a Negro assistant in the U.S. Attorney's Office sat at the prosecution table, although he took no hand in the proceedings.

Now there is no telling whether the jurors were affected in any way by all this "subtle" play and counter-play for their sympathies. The point is that here was an obvious effort to influence them by means other than the evidence—attempts which would have been summarily rebuked in many courts.

So it would be entirely pertinent if the McClellan committee, in pursuit of its inquiry into Hoffa's career, should delve all the way into the conduct of the trial—not to depreciate the verdict, but to expose the methods by which the Teamster bosses seek to attain their ends.

And incidentally to show how the dues of Teamsters Union members are used, and whether or not somebody took advantage of the good nature of an artless sports idol.



# Race Issue Thrown Out Of Hoffa Trial

*Advertiser P.8*  
 WASHINGTON, July 3 (AP)—John Cye Cheasty swore today his only motive in turning in James R. Hoffa and Hyman I. Fischbach was his "duty as a citizen."  
*Heads New York Times*  
 Cheasty, New York lawyer-investigator, is the government's key witness in the bribery-conspiracy charge today raised racial issues before the predominantly Negro jury—and the attempt apparently boomeranged.

Furthermore, Cheasty said, "this situation focused my attention sharply on the work of the committee and I felt it was about time for me to do something to further the work."

"I believed in the work that the committee was doing," Cheasty said.

Judge Burnita S. Matthews recalled that on Friday there had been "something said here concerning the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, the Tallahassee bus boycott, and a Florida legislative investigating committee."

"These are matters not related to this case and they have no place in this trial," she told the jurors, in denying defense motion for a mistrial.

The racial issue upon which Williams and Fischbach's lawyer, Daniel B. Maher, demanded a mistrial called Cheasty's story of his Tallahassee work so prejudicial that there should be a mistrial. Eight of the 12 jurors hearing the Hoffa-Fischbach case are Negroes.

## Hoffa Raises Racial Issue

*Advertiser P.6-a*  
*July 6-29-57*  
 WASHINGTON, June 28 (AP)—A lawyer trying to get James R. Hoffa free on a bribery-conspiracy charge today raised racial issues before the predominantly Negro jury—and the attempt apparently boomeranged.

The government's star witness, whom the defense had tried to portray as anti-Negro, turned the tables and pictured himself as a

benefactor of Negroes.

Eight members of the jury trying Hoffa, Midwestern chief of the Teamsters Union on charges of bribery and conspiracy, are Negroes. Racial issues are not involved in the charge.

The witness was John Cye Cheasty, Brooklyn lawyer who has sworn that Hoffa hired him in a plot to steal secrets of the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee. Cheasty divulged the alleged plot to the committee and worked with the FBI to snare Hoffa.

## Racial Angle Backfires In Hoffa Trial

*News & Courier Charleston, S.C.*  
*Sat. 6-29-57*  
**Star Witness Tells Of Role In Florida Integration Probes**

WASHINGTON, June 28 (AP)—A lawyer trying to get James R. Hoffa free on a bribery-conspiracy charge today raised racial issues before the predominantly Negro jury—and the attempt apparently boomeranged.

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### STAR WITNESS

The witness was John Cye Cheasty, Brooklyn lawyer who has sworn that Hoffa hired him in a plot to steal secrets of the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee. Cheasty divulged the alleged plot to the committee and worked with the FBI to snare Hoffa.

On cross-examination, defense counsel Edward Bennett Williams asked Cheasty whether he used a fake name when he went to Tallahassee in 1956 to investigate the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People and to "break a bus boycott."

Prosecutor Edward T. Troxell bounded to his feet in protest. He insisted that Cheasty be allowed to answer the question fully without interruption. Dist. Judge Burnita S. Matthews agreed with Troxell.

Cheasty said that to start at the beginning, "instead of jumping into the middle of things," he never had used a fake name in Florida. Further, he said, he was hired at Tallahassee because authorities wanted "a Northerner who could bring some common sense into a heated situation."

### CITES SETTLEMENT

The witness said that within 16 days, as a result of his recommendations, there was a "peaceful settlement of the bus boycott, satisfactory to both sides."

Cheasty said the purpose of his job was to discover whether Communists were in back of the boycott. He said he found this to be untrue and recommended a solution, later adopted, ending segregated bus seating and providing for employment of some Negro drivers.

"Those were my recommendations," Cheasty said. "And they were accepted by the bus company."

After his Tallahassee experience, Cheasty said, he was hired by a Florida legislative committee probing race relations. He said "the situation in Florida had become very tense over integration," but there were a number of people in the state who were "good, coolheaded, sensible people" who wanted a solution.

Cheasty said he had disagreements with two other investigators named Mark Hawes and R. J. Strickland.

Cheasty said Hawes considered that Hawes put Strickland to work "investigating me." This resulted, Cheasty said, in charges to the legislative committee that he had failed to carry out orders and padded his expense accounts.

### FLORIDA PROBE

Cheasty said when this happened, he quit because he was convinced Hawes and Strickland didn't want any solution to racial problems.

"I wasn't going to work with two skunks like that and louse up the committee's work," he said. "That's the language I used when I resigned."

A series of pictures introduced in evidence yesterday by the government but barred from newsmen by Judge Matthews, today

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were made available to reporters. They showed Hoffa and the witness Cheasty at a March 12 meeting here at which Cheasty said he gave secret Senate committee files to Hoffa for \$2,000 cash.

## STRATEGY BOOMERANGS

*Times-Union P.5*  
*July 6-29-57*

# Race Issue Raised By Hoffa Defense

*Jacksonville Fla.*  
 WASHINGTON, June 28 (AP)—A lawyer trying to get James R. Hoffa free on a bribery-conspiracy charge today raised racial issues before the predominantly Negro jury—and the attempt apparently boomeranged.

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### Fake Name?

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### 'Damned Yankee'

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# Racial Issues Introduced In Hoffa Defense Backfire

*Courier-Journal*  
*Sat. 6-29-57 Louisville Ky.*  
Washington, June 28 (AP)—A lawyer trying to get James R. Hoffa free on a bribery-conspiracy charge today raised racial issues before the predominantly Negro jury. The attempt apparently boomeranged.

The Government's star witness, whom the defense had tried to portray as anti-Negro, turned the tables and pictured himself as a benefactor of Negroes.

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## Lawyer on Stand

The witness was John Cye Cheasty, Brooklyn lawyer who has sworn Hoffa hired him in a plot to steal secrets of the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee. Cheasty divulged the alleged plot to the committee and John Cye Cheasty, New York worked with the F.B.I. to snare Hoffa.

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## Denies Using Fake Name

Cheasty said he had never used a fake name in Florida. Further, he said, he was hired at Tallahassee because authorities wanted "a Northerner who could bring some common sense into a heated situation."

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Cheasty said he recommended a solution, later adopted, ending segregated bus seating and providing for employment of some Negro drivers.

# Senators' Spy Admits Favoring Integration

*Daily News*  
*Jackson Miss.*  
WASHINGTON (UP)—An effort to discredit the government's star witness against James R. Hoffa before a predominantly Negro jury ended Friday with the witness testifying he had worked for integration and against mob violence.

Edward Bennett Williams, defense attorney for the Teamsters Union official in the bribery-conspiracy trial, introduced the racial question in cross-examining Cheasty, New York Labor Rackets Committee employee.

Cheasty has testified that Hoffa offered him \$18,000 to get a job with the committee and feed Hoffa information on the committee's investigation of the union.

Cheasty said he pretended to "spy" for Hoffa while working with the committee and the FBI to trap the union vice president.

Williams asked Cheasty if he had not used a "fictitious" name to "break up" a Negro bus boycott at Tallahassee, Fla., last year and to "investigate" the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Florida.

Cheasty angrily denied the allegations. He said he had negotiated a settlement of the Tallahassee bus boycott that was "good for both sides." He recommended elimination of the "color line" on buses and hiring of Negro bus drivers on some routes, he said.

## Juries Here And There

THE debate over the jury trial amendment to the civil rights bill continues. It was not only the conviction of the seven Clinton defendants by an all-white Knoxville jury which made Congress jury-conscious.

Also contributing was the acquittal of James Hoffa, No. 2 man in the Teamsters Union, on a charge of conspiring to bribe a Senate committee staff member. The case against Hoffa was considered air tight. The McClellan Committee's counsel, Robert F. Kennedy, had promised to jump off the Capitol dome if Hoffa was cleared.

But Hoffa's District of Columbia jury was predominantly Negro—eight Negroes to four whites—and the defense made much of Hoffa's supposed pro-Negro sentiments. Former heavyweight champion Joe Louis visited the courtroom frequently and went over on several occasions to chat with Hoffa. Since Louis is not renowned for his legal knowledge, it was obvious the defense was trying to sway the eight Negro jurors.

Hoffa's lawyer kept the Negro question before the jury all the way. He concentrated on the race issue in an attack on the government's main witness, John Cye Cheasty, bringing out that Cheasty had worked for a Florida legislative committee investigating a bus boycott. Williams was painted as a great friend of Negroes.

Perhaps the most important racial influence came from the Negro newspaper the *Washington Afro-American*. Appearing over the July 4 weekend, when jurors were at home, the *Afro-American*, highly

regarded by Negroes, published the name and address of every juror and recited on its editorial page the names of prominent Negro leaders from all over the country who had visited the courtroom because of their interest in Hoffa.

A full-page ad in the paper that weekend defended Hoffa.

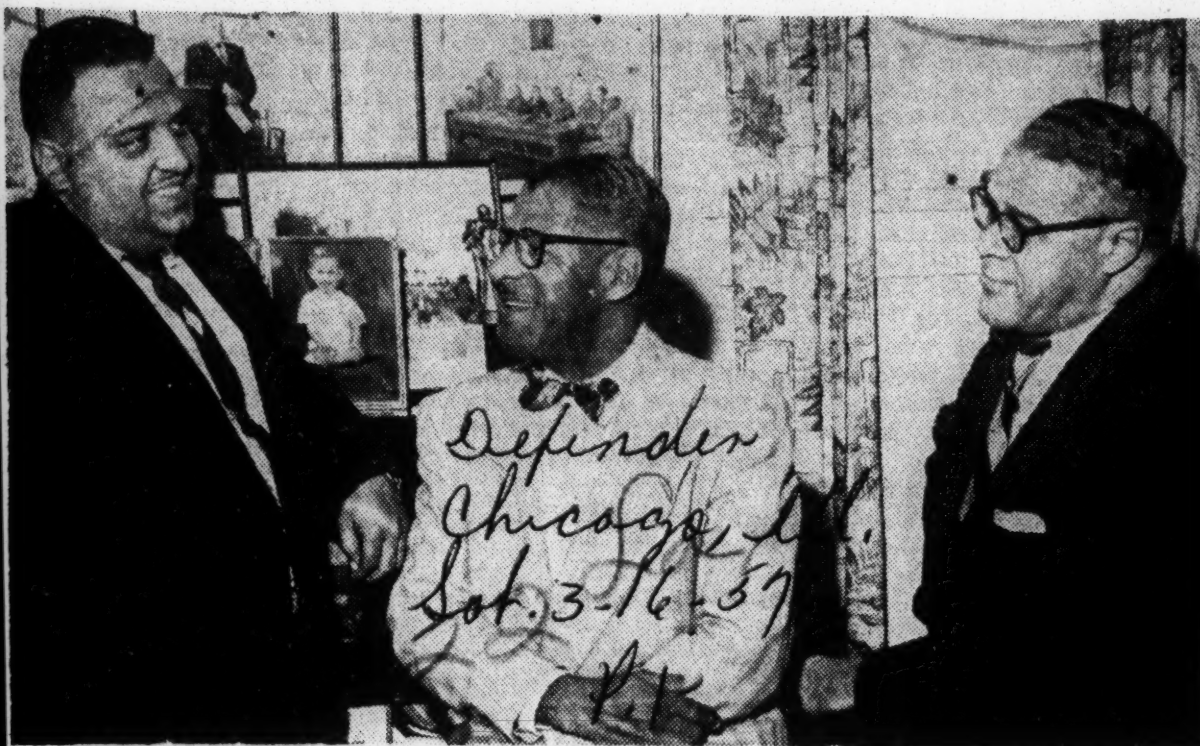
Sponsored by a "Detroit Citizens Committee" it carried a picture of Hoffa with a Negro. Said the ad: "One of the hardest hitting champions that labor has ever had stands accused of a crime whose facts just don't fit his style."

So alarmed were government lawyers by the diverse and intense efforts obviously directed at prejudicing the jury, they persuaded the judge to keep the jurors in sight of U.S. marshals after they returned from recess.

Hoffa was acquitted, after what was regarded as a very short deliberation. Jurors said the race issue had nothing to do with their verdict—they could scarcely have said otherwise—but the feeling is that it did.

If it did, it does not of course excuse Southern juries who refuse to do their duty. But when Northern congressmen try to end an argument with "Till" these days, Southerners are replying "Hoffa."





SELECTED TO SERVE for the next six months on the Orleans Parish grand jury, New Orleans, are (from left) Willis Mishore, general manager of the Gertrude Geddes Willis funeral home and in-

## Mixed Panel Is Urged To Seek Truth

*Weekly P. 1 Sat. 3-9-57*  
The selection of three New Orleans Negro citizens to serve on the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Monday by Frank T. Echezabal, Judge of Criminal District Court, Section D, represented a departure from the practice of former years and has possibly set new precedent for years to come. Selected to serve for the term March 4 through September 3, 1957 are Haidel J. Christophe, Willis J. Misshore and A. J. Chapital, Jr.

The exclusion of Negroes until recently from Grand Jury service has been obvious and often considered deliberate. In several instances Negroes have either been freed or granted re-trials on the ground that "a government employee, number of his race had not been

insurance company; Arthur G. Chapital, sr., postal clerk and president, New Orleans NAACP; and Haidel J. Christophe, president, People's Life Insurance company. Negroes

are being placed on the grand jury because many convicted persons have sued to have their convictions set aside because Negroes have been kept off the jury.

included on the Grand Jury duties and responsibilities handing down the indictment or Judge Echezabal continued to remind the twelve selected that they "must seek the truth and

sed some concern about two race or religious beliefs should years ago and two New Orleans not hinder their execution of Negroes were selected for justice on this level." He ad-

Grand Jury service. Judge W. O'Hara selected C. H. Denwell and be unbiased in their convictions." Among others observed re-

Mr. Christophe, president of Peoples Life Insurance Company and the New Orleans Insurance Executives Council, Life Insurance; Severan Goods, director, Majestic Funeral Service and Insurance Company and His selection was accepted by Rev. Lawler P. Daniels. Names of two others reporting were un-

*Weekly P. 3*  
Mr. Misshore is vice president funeral-director of Gertrude Geddes-Willis Funeral Home and resides in Pontchartrain Park Homes subdivision. Mr. Chapital is a United States government employee. In charging the jury as to



For the second time in modern history, Negroes were chosen to serve for the next six months on the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on last Monday. The jury empaneled by Judge Frank T. Echezabal is pictured above, from left to right, bottom row: Warren J. Mayronne,

Foreman Marc Antony, Robert J. Evans, Pierre Villere, Anthony J. Genere and Haidel J. Christophe and rear row Benjamin Bura, Charles Delhonde, Willis J. Misshore, Frank M. Labouisse, Joseph Childress and Arthur J. Chapital, Sr.

## Mix Grand Jury To Avoid Suits

*Defender Chicago, Ill. NEW ORLEANS — (ANP) —*  
Three Negroes were appointed this month on the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. Many suits have been filed for voiding sentences of those tried where there were no Negroes on the jury or grand jury.

At present seven Negro teenagers have asked to have indictments quashed because Negroes were systematically kept off juries.

*Sat. 3-16-57*  
The three appointed were Haidel J. Christophe, president of the People's Life Insurance company Willis J. Misshore, manager of the Geddes Willis Insurance company and undertaking firm; and A. G. Chapital, postal clerk in the New Orleans Post Office and president of the New Orleans N. A. A. C. P.



22 1957

MISSISSIPPI

## NEGROES ON JURY PANEL

At Least One To Be Eligible

In Lincoln County

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Aug. 31. — (AP) — When Circuit Court opens Monday the list of persons eligible for jury service will include Negroes for the first time in recent Lincoln County history.

County officials would not say how many Negroes appear on the list but one official, who declined to be named, said there is at least one Negro name.

Getting on the list of prospective panel members does not assure that Negroes will serve on the jury.

County supervisors select prospective jurors from a list of the county's qualified male voters. Lincoln County has some, but not many, Negro voters.

There is a possibility the Negro names are on the list because of the probability that a Negro accused of raping two white women will be tried. It is the case of J. D. 'Bo' Cameron, but no one in authority would confirm such a connection.

Convictions of Negroes on rape charges have sometimes been reversed when the jury panel did not include Negroes.

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22 1957

OKLAHOMA

# **All-Negro Jury Awards White \$200 in Case Car Dealer Found Guilty in Mix-up; Two Cars Involved**

stable, selected the jurors.

Justice of the Peace Newman, whose JP court is located at 214 West Fifth street, said Wednesday he believed it was the first time an all Negro jury ever served in Oklahoma history.

Six North Tulsans served as jurors in a case involving two whites in Justice of the Peace Garrett H. Newman's court, District 4, Division 4, Friday. According to reports, this marked the first time an all-Negro jury was called to serve in a case involving members of the majority race.

Serving as jurors were Hunter F. Gray, foreman, Paul Mack, Ray Johnson, Floyd Graham, Homer (Sugar) Ray, and Archie Lee Ellis.

The case involved W. R. Oakley, East Pine street car dealer Harry L. Gibson, 75, who won a \$200 judgement in the case. It was pointed out that Oakley had repossessed a car from Gibson who was given 24 hours to make a redelivery which he allegedly did not do.

The elderly man claimed that Oakley sold him a cheaper car after he found he could not make payments on the first vehicle purchased. It was stated that Gibson never had a title to the first car, a 1950 Ford. The second car was a 1942 Ford, valued at \$127.

## **Paid \$165 to Dealer**

At no downpayment, Gibson was supposed to pay \$35 monthly on the first car. He contended that he had paid \$165 on the cars, plus damages.

An agent for Oakley later called on the plaintiff, making a transaction on the 1942 car, after the first car was repossessed. He kept the first car about two months. Later the second auto was repossessed by Oakley.

Mr. Gibson charged that the car dealer did not stick his terms in the original agreement as he understood it. He said he had given six chickens and a rooster, valued at \$10, as downpayment on one of the cars.

R. M. Cowan represented Mr. Oakley, Mr. Gibson's attorney was Vernon Brown.

Clarence Love North Tulsa con-



## At Knoxville Racists' Trial - - -

# Three Negro Veniremen By-Passed From Jury Duty

*Crusader*  
*Chicago, Ill.*  
*Sat. 7-13-57*  
KNOXVILLE, TENN. — Last minute preparation to 'properly' defend Racist John Kasper, the professional hater and some hometown folks who were sanctioning his program up until Uncle Sam put them in jail, were made early Tuesday, when three prospective jurors who happened to be Negroes were shunted aside and an all-white jury chosen.

This was obviously one of the Clinton area acted in concert with first steps, the other one being Kasper in committing these acts. that according to pre-trial arrangements, the government is going to be forced to prove that the 15 townsmen arrested creating racial dissension over the integration order handed down to schools, worked in collusion with Kasper. A good portion of the trial will be taken up in making it clear that the other defendants will repudiate Kasper and his methods and thus try to prove that no conspiracy existed.

On every white lip in town new the opinion is being expressed that white citizens of the city were not in accord with the U. S. Supreme Court decision, they did not like the ideas of Kasper nor would they subscribe to them.

Knoxville, Tenn. — John Kasper, the professional race hater and segregationist, went to trial here early this week along with 15 others charged with stirring up racial strife in this community where the big problem has been in the opening up of schools to colored children.

From the reported pre-trial arguments of what the government is going to be forced to prove, the hostility toward colored people by any jury perhaps which could be selected, it is believed that the defense will have an easy time of it.

The government is going to be forced to prove that the defendants knew about the injunction. It must prove the defendants committed overt acts to violate the injunction, and it must prove that the 15 defendants from the

## 2 women on U.S. jury in Nashville

*As an American*  
*Sat. 7-27-57*  
*Baltimore, Md.*  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Two Nashville women are making history this week as they serve on the Federal grand jury.

*P. 3*  
Mrs. Maeola Darden and Mrs. Esther Lewis are the first colored persons and the first of their sex to serve in this capacity in the history of Nashville.

*22*  
Mrs. Darden is employed by the General Shoe Company in Nashville and is secretary of the Southeast Nashville Civic League. She is the wife of a real estate salesman in the city.

\* \* \*

MRS. LEWIS is a civil defense leader and a graduate of Tennessee State University. Her husband is a Baptist minister and also in the real estate business.

## TWO WOMEN NAMED FOR JURY DUTY

*mead*  
*7-27-57*  
Nashville, Tenn. (Special To The Weekly) — Two Negro women were seated as members of the district federal court grand jury here Monday marking the first time within the memory of veteran court attaches.

Seated with the jury are Mrs. Maeola Darden and Mrs. Esther Lewis, both residents of Nashville.

is scheduled for a public hearing and involves the Trans World Airlines (TWA) which claimed that a Negro girl applicant for stewardess was rejected because she was "unattractive."

Kheel exhorted the airlines "immediately to prove to the public the sincerity of your promise" to judge applicants on merit, and not on color.

The airlines in questions are the American Airlines, Braniff Airways, Capital Airlines, Delta Airlines, Eastern Airlines, Mohawk Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Northeast Airlines, Pan American World Airways, Riddle Airlines, Trans World Airways, United Airlines, Allegheny Airlines, the Flying Tiger Line, National Airlines and Slick Airways.